

CLAIMS

1. A method for measuring the surface tension of a sample comprising
 - providing a well plate containing at least one well defined by well walls
5 defining a well opening and the walls of the well forming a space for receiving the sample to be tested
 - bringing a probe in contact with the surface of the sample in the well, and,
 - measuring the force applied to the probe by the sample, characterized in
10 that the walls of the well are inclined with respect to the plane defined by the opening of the well so that the cross section of the well is decreasing in the direction from the opening of the well towards the bottom of the same, so as provide a geometry resulting in a flat or convex shape of the meniscus of the sample in the well and that at least
15 the surface of the wall of the well facing the sample space comprises an antistatic material, and
 - providing means for dissipating static electricity from the well.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the well has the shape of a cone
20 or a truncated cone.
3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the top angle β of the cone is between 30° to 150°, preferably 70° to 90°.
- 25 4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the means for dissipating static electricity from the well are provided by selected parts of the well plate comprising or being coated with an antistatic material.
5. The method according to claim 1 or 4, wherein the whole well plate is made
30 of, or coated with, an antistatic material.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the antistatic material is a hydrophobic material, preferably a polyolefin.
- 5 7. The method according to claim 6, wherein the hydrophobic material used is a conductive, inherently dissipative material, such as polypropylene of high purity comprising carbon or metal particles.
8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the surface tension is measured
10 from an aqueous solution.
9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the sample is an aqueous solution of a drug and is used for testing AMDE-properties of the drug.
- 15 10. A well plate containing at least one well defined by well walls and an opening and forming a space for receiving a sample to be tested, characterized in that the walls of the well are inclined with respect to the plane defined by the opening of the well so that the cross section of the well is decreasing in the direction from the opening of the well towards the
20 bottom of the same, so as to provide a geometry resulting in a flat or convex shape of the meniscus of the sample when in the well and that at least the surface of the wall of the well facing the sample space comprises an antistatic material, and comprising means for dissipating static electricity from the well.
- 25 11. The well plate according to claim 10, wherein the well has the shape of a cone or a truncated cone.
12. The well plate according to claim 11, wherein the top angle β of the cone is
30 between 30° to 150°, preferably 70° to 90°.

13. The well plate according to claim 10, wherein the means for dissipating static electricity from the well are provided by selected parts of the well plate comprising or being coated with an antistatic material.

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14. The well plate according to claim 10, wherein the whole well plate is made of, or coated with, an antistatic material.

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15. The well plate according to claim 10, wherein the antistatic material is a hydrophobic material, preferably a polyolefin.

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16. The well plate according to claim 15, wherein the hydrophobic material used is a conductive, inherently dissipative material, such as polypropylene of high purity comprising carbon or metal particles.

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